Mennonite Mission Network
The mission agency of Mennonite Church USA

OCTOBER 2013
Beyond OURSELVES

MONGOLIA PARTNERS

20 years of sharing the Word through deeds

Different surroundings, familiar hope

By Wil LaVeist

Twenty years ago, Mennonite Mission Network joined other Christian agencies in setting aside doctrinal differences to focus on their shared belief in Jesus, and to do one thing—serve alongside the Mongolian people. In this issue of *Beyond Ourselves*, we commemorate that commitment to JCS International and how the Mongolia Mission Partnership of east-central Ohio churches has, through the Word and their deeds, been a blessing as well as been blessed. Their financial, physical and prayerful support has helped programs of varying characteristics to go forth and minister to people of all ages.

I was blessed to experience some of these programs during my visit to Mongolia in May. Through their curiosity, I felt a genuine warmth and hospitality that has often been opposite of my experience as a "minority" in neighborhoods with white picket fences in my native America. Particularly, I felt the love from the children, and saw in them my childhood growing up in a low-income area of Brooklyn, New York.

In the more rural Bayankhongor, I imagined the children were saying, "Michael Jordan, Michael Jordan!" as they stared at me, and giggled on the school playground. I joined their hoop game, and kind of created a scene as kids gathered around to watch. When it was time for me and my Mission Network traveling companions to leave the playground, the kids tracked me down for autographs, handing me small sheets of paper to sign. Obviously, Mongolians don't normally see someone as tall, handsome, and as dark as I am.

Team sports can be a valuable ministry tool because success hinges on individuals becoming committed partners. We visited a man whose ministry is a shining example of partnership, not only because of the support it receives from JCS International, but also because of his bond with his wife.

We met Oyunbold (in Mongolia, it is common to use only one name), the founder and trainer of the Eagle Boxing Club. The club helps to save kids, many of whom have been orphaned or who are from poor and troubled homes. Oyunbold met a Christian woman, Badamtuya Haltar, whom he fell in love with. She introduced Oyunbold to Jesus and also laid down the law of what it would take for Oyunbold to be with her long-term—he needed to attend a Discipleship Training School, which is also supported by JCS International. Oyunbold's experience at the school led to his accepting Christ as his savior and developing the boxing club to teach Christian principles. It also led to Badamtuya accepting Oyunbold's hand in marriage.

The boxing club is in the basement of an apartment building in an area that would certainly qualify as the 'hood in any major American city. As we walked to the entrance, the sign above the doorway was of, ironically, two black boxers. Inside, the youths (including two girls) were shadow boxing, jumping rope, and punching bags. There was also a boxing ring crammed into a small square room. The kids grinned and laughed as I threw phantom punches with them and showed my footwork.

Some may see amateur boxing as an odd way to share the gospel of peace. But boxing is actually about self-defense, discipline, making good decisions, taking care of your body, being responsible to others, and handling adversity and victory with grace. When dealing with kids from tough family situations, you have to meet them where they are to gain their trust. You have to become their partner. Oyunbold teaches the boxers these values as they train for team competitions throughout Mongolia and Russia and other parts of Asia. His wife, a certificated teacher of character training, conducts classes for the kids as well. The couple only shares their Christian faith when the children ask.

Many Mongolians lack material advantages that are often taken for granted in America, but they are rich in their sense of community and hospitality. Even greater things are in store as the growing church continues to spread the hope of Christ across the nation.

Mennonite Mission Network

***Beyond Ourselves* is published by Mennonite Mission Network**
October 2013—Vol. 12, No. 3
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Mennonite Mission Network exists to lead, mobilize and equip the Mennonite Church to participate in holistic witness to Jesus Christ.
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POSTMASTER: Subscriptions and changes of address should be sent to *Beyond Ourselves,* Mennonite Mission Network, PO Box 370, Elkhart, IN 46515-0370.

COVER: In 2008, Shannon Miller Hoffman (left), then a member of Martins Creek Mennonite Church in Millersburg, Ohio, visited with "O" (name withheld at subject's request) in Mongolia. Photo by Laura Schlabach.

Equal partners in Mongolia

By Stanley W. Green

I believe that the Trinity is not only a good demonstration of the nature of God, but it is also a model that mirrors God's desire of unity for all created beings. Just as the Trinity is a partnership of equals—Creator, Son and Spirit—in which each serves the others, I believe God expects our relationships in the church to echo the commitment to equality and a willingness to serve each other. When we do, unsurprisingly, we discover that we are able to do so much more than we could on our own.

In the last quarter of the 20th century, Mennonite Mission Network (through its predecessors) began a journey of partnership as a new, more exciting and effective way of being involved in mission. The invitation emerged from exchanges between Mennonite Board of Missions (a Mission Network predecessor agency), Joint Cooperative Services in Mongolia (now JCS International), and a cluster of churches in east-central Ohio. Most of the potential partners in this new venture in mission had limited experience in the practice of partnership. The initial commitment by the participants was cautious and unsure.

I believe God expects our relationships in the church to echo the commitment to equality and a willingness to serve each other.

The opportunity, however, was compelling. After decades of Soviet repression, during which secular atheism was the official ideology, Mongolia became independent and embraced religious freedom. During the years of Soviet suppression of religion, many mosques and temples were destroyed, many more monks were martyred, and the Christian church experienced persecution. When the invitation came to participate with JCS in witnessing for Christ in the newly free nation, there were just five known Christians who had survived the repression. Committed to sending an eager Laura Schlabach as our earliest representative of the Mennonite Church's desire to build the community of Jesus followers in Mongolia, the mission agency and the Ohio churches developed an infrastructure of support and relationships that grew to become the Mongolia Mission Partnership.

God honored those congregations in Ohio that made that early commitment to be a part of "strengthening what remained." God increased the faith of the partners, and they grew in capacity from supporting one worker (Laura) to a place where, at one time in the late 1990s, the partnership was supporting six family units in Mongolia. There were exciting exchanges where participants from the Ohio-based congregations traveled to Mongolia to support the work there, as well as Mongolians traveling to Ohio to visit with their partners. More importantly, the Ohio-based congregations grew toward becoming fully engaged in God's mission in Mongolia. Indeed, they became key partners in writing the story of the resurgence of the Christian church in Mongolia. Through the work of God's Spirit and the faithful witness of many who came from various places, including Ohio, the Christian church has grown to be a community that numbers about 50,000 worshipers in churches across that land.

What a testament to God's ability to honor the small mustard-seed faith commitments we make. What a story of small (even tentative) beginnings leading to a great work that honors God and builds the church. Like each member of the Trinity, these partnerships we are building around the world—individuals, congregations, conferences, and even national church bodies—have crucial parts to play. Partners pray, contribute, go, write letters, organize events, and engage in a myriad of various activities that make mission effective.

We thank you for the part you play in sharing what God has entrusted to you, so that together we can respond to God's call to mission in Mongolia and in so many other places around the world. Thanks!

Stanley W. Green
Executive Director

Moving forwa

Camel parade
The annual Camel Festival in Gobi Altai, Mongolia, celebrates nomadic culture and helps to protect and preserve the dwindling camel population.

Photo provided by JCS International.

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Mennonites in Ohio celebrate the history and future of the Mongolia Partnership

It began with a fall that led to a nation's rebirth.

In 1990, Mongolia, the ancient society with the rich heritage that had been suppressed by the Soviets for nearly 70 years, was finally opening to the outside world. Founded in the late 12th century by the controversial and complex leader Chinggis (Genghis) Khan, the world's largest continuous empire had once stretched from Eastern Europe to the Sea of Japan. Khan was a conqueror, but was also known for spreading religious tolerance throughout this predominantly Buddhist country in

Asia. However, under Soviet atheist-communist influence, the knowledge of God had been stifled.

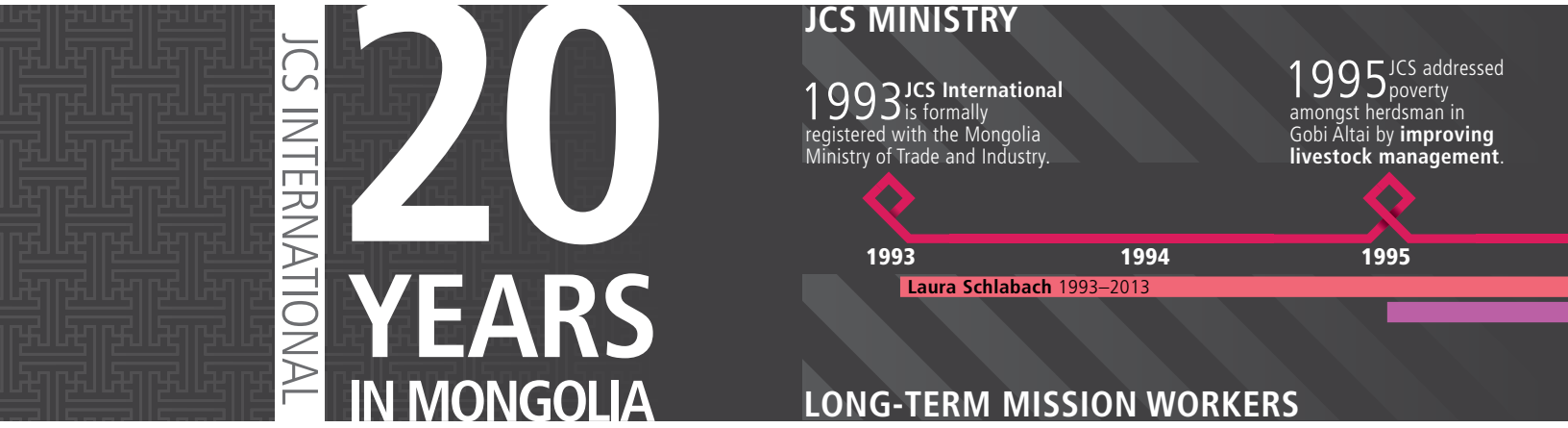
The fall of communism opened a pathway for various Christian mission efforts. Mennonite Board of Missions, a predecessor agency of Mennonite Mission Network, began discussions with other denominational agencies that eventually led to the formation of a partnership in 1993 that is now known as JCS (Joint Christian Services) International. A nongovernmental organization, JCS provides projects throughout Mongolia in and around cities such as Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia's capital), Bayankhongor, and Erdenet. However, the new organization's most pressing need was not necessarily church planters to be sent out, but someone with a more practical skill set. JCS needed an accountant to help manage the new partnership.

Some 6,300 miles away, seven Mennonite churches in east-central Ohio heard the call to support God's movement in this Asian country. Connected to the churches was Ohio native Laura Schlabach, formerly a Mennonite Voluntary Service participant in San Antonio, Texas. An accountant, she was at first insecure about how her work could be considered mission. Still, she heeded the call and volunteered. The five known Christians in Mongolia in 1990 had multiplied to approximately 1,000 in this nation of 3 million people by the time Schlabach arrived in 1993. Twenty years later, Schlabach, now the JCS International representative for Bayankhongor, is more confident that she has helped JCS play an integral role in the growth of the Christian church to approximately 50,000 members in more than 400 congregations nationwide.

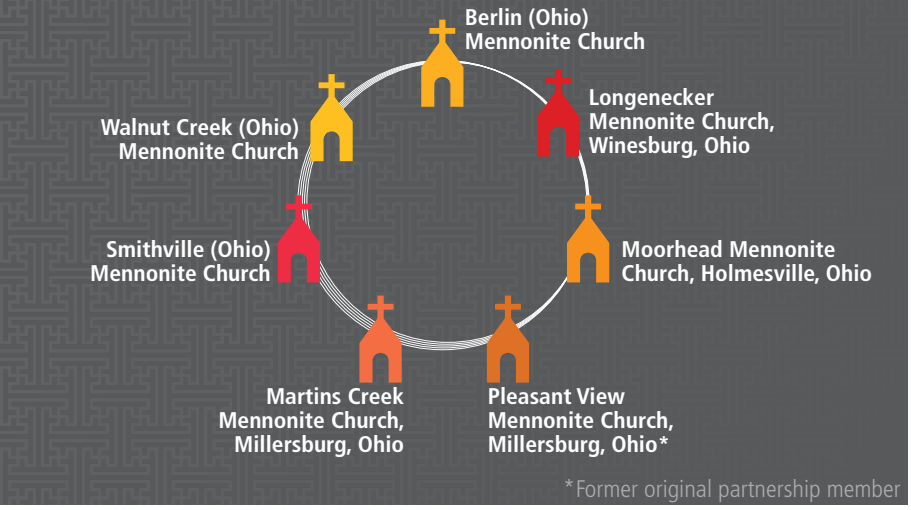
"It's amazing to watch what God has done!" Schlabach said.

It is for this reason that these Ohio churches will gather for a banquet at the Carlisle Inn, Walnut Creek, Oct. 19-21, to celebrate 20 years of commitment through their Mongolia Mission Partnership. Activities will include many commemorative congregational worship services.

Marc Hochstetler, pastor of Moorhead Mennonite



MONGOLIA PARTNERSHIP CHURCHES



Church, a member congregation in Holmes County, said the partnership has been a blessing for the Ohio churches by encouraging them to work together, and providing a hands-on experience to overseas mission.

"Instead of simply sending money to a large organization, we can focus on a particular place and people, learning about them and praying for them specifically," he said. "It also provides a greater sense of partnership with the missionaries in their work."

Hochstetler said that at the start of the partnership, church members of all ages were given seed money to raise more support for the partnership. The effort modeled the "parable of the talents," he said.

"One child used the seed money to start a lemonade stand. Others used it to plant a garden from which they could sell produce," Hochstetler said. "As people got involved in this way, you could see their excitement for missions grow."

In Mongolia, JCS celebrated its 20th anniversary May 23-27 after the agency's annual board meetings at its downtown Ulaanbaatar office. During the open-to-the public ceremony at the Mongolia Children's Palace, Mongolia's former Prime Minister, Sh. Gungaadorj, was among the dignitaries who praised JCS. Gungaadorj said that JCS had been instrumental in helping to facilitate a dramatic national transformation by establishing and supporting various service projects, particularly those that have trained needy families to better provide for themselves.

Among those projects was the Model Dairy Farm in Batsumber that was started by Bill and Mary Jane Yoder and their family, who served with Mission Network. During the three-year project from 2000 to 2003, the Yoders built a barn and showed local farmers how to produce and sustain milk production during Mongolia's

Top left: Grace Soong (center) volunteered with JCS, meeting Boloroo (left) and Anuka (right). Photo courtesy of JCS.

Top right: Laura Schlabach (left), MMN worker, and Kwai Lin Stephens, executive director of JCS. Schlabach has served in Mongolia with Mennonite Mission Network for 20 years. Photo by John F. Lapp.

1996 JCS began work in Zavkan province with the **Timber Products project**, leading to the Reforestation project in 2002.

1998 **Early Childhood Education project** began as a way to provide educational opportunities for children of low-income families in Erdenet.

2000 **Model Dairy Farm** is established in Batsumber. By 2003, it is under full Mongolian management.

1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001

Mary Ellen and Drew Robinson 1995–2011

Anita and Melvin Penner 1997–1999

Handoyo

Vicky and Marlow Ramsay 1999–2008

Mary and William Yoder 1999–2003

harsh winters in which temperatures can remain well below 15 degrees Fahrenheit during the cold season. A Mongolian family now owns the farm, which has been replicated by several local farmers. Some barns can be seen dotted along the countryside outside of Ulaanbaatar, said Sheldon Sawatzky, a former JCS board chair and East Asia director for Mission Network during the Yoders' term.

"The farm received a national award … and when the Yoders left, there were 20 believers in that little community," said Sawatzky, affirming JCS's overall approach of promoting God's kingdom by applying "both Word and deed."

JCS projects range from counseling services for addictions and help to escape prostitution, to a café that offers job training, to jewelry- and quilt-making initiatives, and sports clubs for youth. Support from Ohio churches usually exceeding $100,000 annually has been critical. For example, support helps the ArtisAltaï project where women develop life and business skills through creating jewelry and felt products. The churches have also been hands-on. Work teams from Ohio travel regularly on short-term visits to help with construction projects, such as a playground for the school in the village of Erdenetsogt. They worked on buildings at the Mongolian Mission Center in Erdenet and the nearby Rainbow Kindergarten. Hochstetler has been among the work team members.

It's amazing to watch what God has done!

—Laura Schlabach

"I very much enjoy experiencing other cultures and meeting the people living there, but most of all, seeing firsthand what God is doing," Hochstetler said.

Mongolia's transition from a socialist to a democratic government, along with its growing mining industry, is rapidly transforming the land-locked nation from a nomadic and rural culture to one that is urban and consumer-driven. Mongolians are moving from the countryside, where many live in *gers* (a movable tent-like house constructed of wood and felt), to high-rise apartments in cities, for job opportunities. Chinggis Khan's ancient kingdom is rapidly becoming modern and industrialized.

JCS personnel have witnessed the positives and negatives of this transition. Wealth has increased and there is broader access to information via TV and the Internet, but the gap between rich and poor has also expanded. Social and health problems tied to overcrowding have increased along with traffic congestion and smog. Alcohol addiction, particularly among men, has long been a major societal ill. Sexually transmitted diseases are also rising as women are often forced into prostitution to provide for their families.

JCS Executive Director Kwai Lin Stephens said the organization will continue to adjust to help Mongolians build their new society.

"Mongolia is facing a global economy now," she said. "Mongolians have to deal with other nations in

20 YEARS IN MONGOLIA

2003 VetNet establishes a **veterinarian training clinic** in Ulaanbaatar focused on training veterinarians in rural areas.

2004 Relief work was initiated in Bayankhongor to **encourage herders to stay in or return to rural areas** after the winter disasters of 1999-2004.

2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007

Laura Schlabach 1993–
Mary and William Robinson 1995–2011
Petrus and Yuliana Handoyo 2001–2011
Vicky and Marlow Ramsay 1999–2008
Mary and William Yoder 1999–2003
Tonya Starner 2002–

Children playing inside the *ger* at Word of Salvation church in Bayankhongor, Mongolia.

Photo by Craig Welscott.

terms of the economy and international partners."

This Mongolia is a far different land than when Schlabach first arrived 20 years ago, soon after the New Testament had been translated into Mongolian. Two percent of the population is now Christian. The Mongolian Evangelical Alliance (the umbrella organization for the local Mongolian churches) aims that by 2020 the population will be 10 percent Christian. Ultimately, they hope to spread the gospel as far as Khan's former empire.

"Various mission organizations had been praying for Mongolia and waiting for the opportunity to share the gospel," said Schlabach, who also offered praises to the several mission workers over the years who have joined this great work.

Ohio churches responded with the Word, their deeds, and their prayers.

2008 JCS's Family Agriculture Resource Mongolia is registered as an independent NGO.

2009 ArtisAltaï project begins helping participants to increase their income with craft and business skills.

2010 **Papa Café opens** to train people to run a café, providing a positive environment for students.

2012 Clean City anti-littering campaign kicks off JCS's 20th anniversary celebrations.

2013 JCS and Ohio partnership celebrates 20 years.

2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013

http://www.MennoniteMission.net/BeyondOurselves

Peace, love and uppercuts

JCS International, a consortium of Christian organizations, shares the good news of Jesus Christ with the people of Mongolia by working with them to achieve their full potential through development, relief, and encouraging the planting, growth, development and unity of indigenous churches. Here are just a few ways that JCS works to be the gospel.

ArtisAltaï

Bringing economic stablity

www.artisaltai.org

The ArtisAltaï project in the Gobi Desert of Mongolia works to create micro-enterprises that will be owned by the local people. Altai City has high unemployment, largely due to severely cold weather in 2001, which starved to death many of the herds of the people who are primarily nomadic shepherds. The project aims to offer economic opportunities by developing and selling local crafts. The project is helping individuals regain hope, confidence and dignity by acquiring a professional trade, and enhancing the value of local products that are rooted in ancestral traditions and skills, such as the manufacturing of felt products.

Video online
See how economic stability changes lives in Mongolia. **www.MennoniteMission.net/BeyondOurselves**

Photo by Craig Welscott.

Streams in the Desert

Sharing life skills and support

www.streamsinthedesertjewelry.blogspot.com

Streams in the Desert provides material, emotional and spiritual support for men and women who have fallen into destructive lifestyles of alcohol abuse and prostitution. The participants make and sell items, such as jewelry, mittens and blankets, to raise funds for the project and to help meet the needs of the participants.

"We use the employment as a transition into discipleship where we are encouraging them to have a life of hope," said Liz Sedore, coordinator of the program.

Video online
Find out how craft skills bring hope. **www.MennoniteMission.net/BeyondOurselves**

Photo by Craig Welscott.

Eagle boxing club

Offering discipline, discipleship and love to kids

As a troubled youth, Oyunbold (pictured above with his son, Amaraa) used his boxing skills to intimidate and harm people. Now, through his Eagle Boxing Club, he's using boxing to deliver love to youths who are troubled like he was. Oyunbold trains kids in boxing and, with his wife, Badamtuya, in Christian-based character building. Oyunbold reports that at least of six of the youth attend church regularly. The team travels to competitions throughout Mongolia, Russia, and other parts of Asia.

God used Badamtuya to turn Oyunbold's life around. She insisted that he attend a Youth With a Mission (YWAM) discipleship class if he wanted to date her. They are now married with two children.

"Since I was a child, I never cried, but on the graduation of the (discipleship) school, I cried because I felt the love of Jesus and fully knew I am a son of God," Oyunbold wrote. "God's light cast out the dark things in my heart, one-by-one … The vision God gave me is through boxing practice. I reach out to kids … love them and make them understand [that] they are worthy and valuable [and] Jesus loves them."

YWAM in Mongolia
www.facebook.com/ywamubmongolia

Photo by Craig Welscott.

Mongolia facts

"Genghis Khan" is actually a title of which the definition is unclear. His real name was Temujin.

The current president of Mongolia, Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, attended both the University of Colorado at Boulder and Harvard University in the United States.

A *ger* is a movable tent-like house constructed of wood and felt.

Zud is the term for an extremely snowy winter where large numbers of livestock often die of starvation because they can't find fodder through the snow cover.

Mongol Khuumii, or throat singing, involves producing two simultaneous tones with the human voice. Go to www.MennoniteMission.net/BeyondOurselves for a link to a video where you can see and hear a Mongolian throat singer.

Ulaanbaatar (which means "Red Hero") is the coldest capital city in the world!

Winter lasts from November to late April; spring is May through June. Summer continues from July through to September. The average summer temperature is +20c (+65F). The average winter temperature is -20c (-13F) .

Sheep outnumber people 35 to 1.

Mongolian church reaches out

Small fellowships make big impression

By John F. Lapp

Mongolia grows on you. For the 3 million citizens of the land-locked Asian nation—and for the few thousand expatriates who choose to live there—Mongolia is not just home, but a place to appreciate, to care for, and to love.

Sure, Ulaanbaatar has too many people. As a fast-growing city, this capital suffers many of the maladies of Asia's largest megalopolises, such as serious crime, poverty, homelessness, alcoholism and corruption. But as soon as you get out of that city (which holds almost half of Mongolia's population), you wonder where all the people are. Driving a few hours, you will occasionally catch sight of a *ger.* (This traditional structure, small by Western standards, is the cozy home of generations of Mongolians.)

Last spring, I visited the regional capital, Bayankhongor, in the midwestern part of the country, with a delegation from our local partner organization, JCS International. One day, our travels took us along a bucolic river valley to the tiny village of Erdenetsogt. This village of about 100 gers, each surrounded by a board fence on about a quarter-acre of land, is visibly proud of its children, its religious legacy, and its place in Mongolian history. I visited the village school, a thriving institution with a vigorous principal, Mr. Batsukh, who supervises the education of children. He says that a majority of graduates go on to university—most of them need to travel 12 hours and 400 miles to Ulaanbaatar for their higher education.

We participated in a small ceremony honoring current students for a variety of achievements—of course, they were hospitable and honored their foreign visitors, too. As I turned to the assembly to acknowledge their applause, I noticed a row of photographs across the hall above our heads. I later asked who these venerable people were, and was told that they were the "famous graduates of our school." There were doctors and politicians, scientists and sports figures. The oldest photo was of Gandolgoriin Batsukh, Sambo Wrestling world champion (Mongolian National Nachin) in the 1950s. He was further honored by having his outsized likeness in stone in front of the school!

Mission Network writer Wil LaVeist and Pastor Urtnasan.

Photo by Craig Welscott.

The community has been strengthened by a local Christian fellowship led by Pastor Urtnasan (pictured above). With the help of JCS, they have brought international work teams to build a community playground and help renovate the school dormitory (used by children from herder families who live too far from the village for daily transportation).

The Mongolian church is spreading rapidly, reaching into tiny villages. And these small fellowships are growing and enriching the ancient culture with the good news of Jesus Christ. Mongolia is transforming. Creativity and optimism are painting an exciting new horizon!

Journey through the lens

Telling the stories with images

Words and photos by Craig Welscott

It is incredibly difficult to put into words my experience in Mongolia. There is something intangible about images that allow them to speak in ways that sometimes we cannot. When looking back through the images, there are a number that stand out to me.

One image is of the father-in-law of our driver, Ayor, while in Bayankhongor. We were returning from visiting a school in Erdenetsogt. The bumpy route led to Ayor's in-laws' property (pictured below), a small farm where his extended family lives. Greeted by a nervous cow protecting her calf outside the front gate, Ayor ushered us inside through the snow flurries. The visit included fresh yogurt made on site, sweets, conversation, and a warm seat inside the family's home. It was a chance to not only see how many Mongolians live, but more importantly, to make a connection.

Looking through the photos from this particular day trip, I remember feeling keenly aware of how physically small I was in comparison to everything around me, despite standing at a healthy 6 foot 2 inches.

It is hard to describe this feeling, but maybe it comes from the observation that at most vantage points, you have an unobstructed view of the complete landscape without fences or boundaries, including the openly grazing animals, and maybe the occasional herdsman on a dirt bike wandering around on the horizon keeping track of the herd's movement. Or, it could have been that once outside the confines of the vehicle, I was greeted by a brilliant blue sky that seemed to have no limit—unlike what I have become accustomed to in northern Indiana.

Ultimately, having the privilege to visit a place and to authentically connect with people in their context—whether it was visiting a local family's *ger*, being graciously hosted by longtime Mission Network workers, or mingling with JCS International board members and staff—was a significant part of my experience. What a great privilege to experience this through the unique perspective behind the lens.

Photo by Craig Welscott.

Photos and videos online
Find more images and video clips from Mongolia.
www.MennoniteMission.net/BeyondOurselves

Prayers prepared fertile soil

Mongolia was ready for the gospel

By Laura Schlabach

What a privilege to be a part of the work God is doing in Mongolia. Being in the midst of it, I don't always realize the magnitude of what has happened in 20 years—from four or five known believers to 50,000! And from no churches to more than 400 throughout the country! I needed to hear stories from work in other countries to realize, "Wow! God is doing something magnificent here."

The vision of Mongolian Evangelical Alliance (the umbrella organization for the churches) is that by the year 2020, 10 percent of the population will be Christian—it is currently less than 2 percent. There is a Christian presence in every province, and the goal is to have churches in all of the 329 counties.

Various times I have been asked why the growth rate has been so fast in Mongolia compared to other countries that have had Christian workers for much longer than Mongolia has. The quick answer would be, "It's a God thing." But that incorrectly makes it sound as though God is not at work in other countries. Reflecting on it a bit longer, the answer would be "communism." How can communism promote church growth when it abolishes all religion?

When communism fell in 1990, a void was left that people wanted to fill. Buddhism was Mongolia's predominant religion for many years prior to communism. With God's timing, the New Testament had been in the process of being translated into Mongolian and was ready from the printers in 1990. The *Jesus* film had been translated. With the film and the newly released New Testament, a number of evangelistic teams went throughout the country in 1991 and 1992 sharing about salvation in Jesus. People responded. The "truth" of Jesus is what Mongolians needed to fill the void they were experiencing. And the ground had been well prepared.

A sermon I heard on a recent Sunday focused on the "Parable of the Sower" in Luke 8. Yes, there were seeds that fell on the path, on the rock, and amongst the thorns, but the pastor's focus was on verse 8, "Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown." How do we find good soil? "By praying," the pastor said. All that we do should be prepared with prayer beforehand. As he was sharing, I thought of a story I heard about a woman from the imperial family, named Chabi. She was the wife of Chinggis (Genghis) Khan's grandson, Kublai Khan. Chabi was a Christian and prayed for Mongolia. These prayers were part of the preparation for the fertile soil. Many people, such as members of the Mongolia Mission Partnership churches in Ohio, have been praying for Mongolia for many, many years—even before it opened in 1990. It has been humbling to be a part of God's work here. Sometimes to plant the seed. Sometimes to water what has already been sown. And sometimes to see the harvest. A few of the young people who I worked with during my first few years here, when my main involvement was through teaching English and building relationships, are now church leaders. "But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop (Luke 8:15)."

All that we do should be prepared with prayer beforehand.

Please continue to pray for good soil and that we may all persevere to produce a crop.

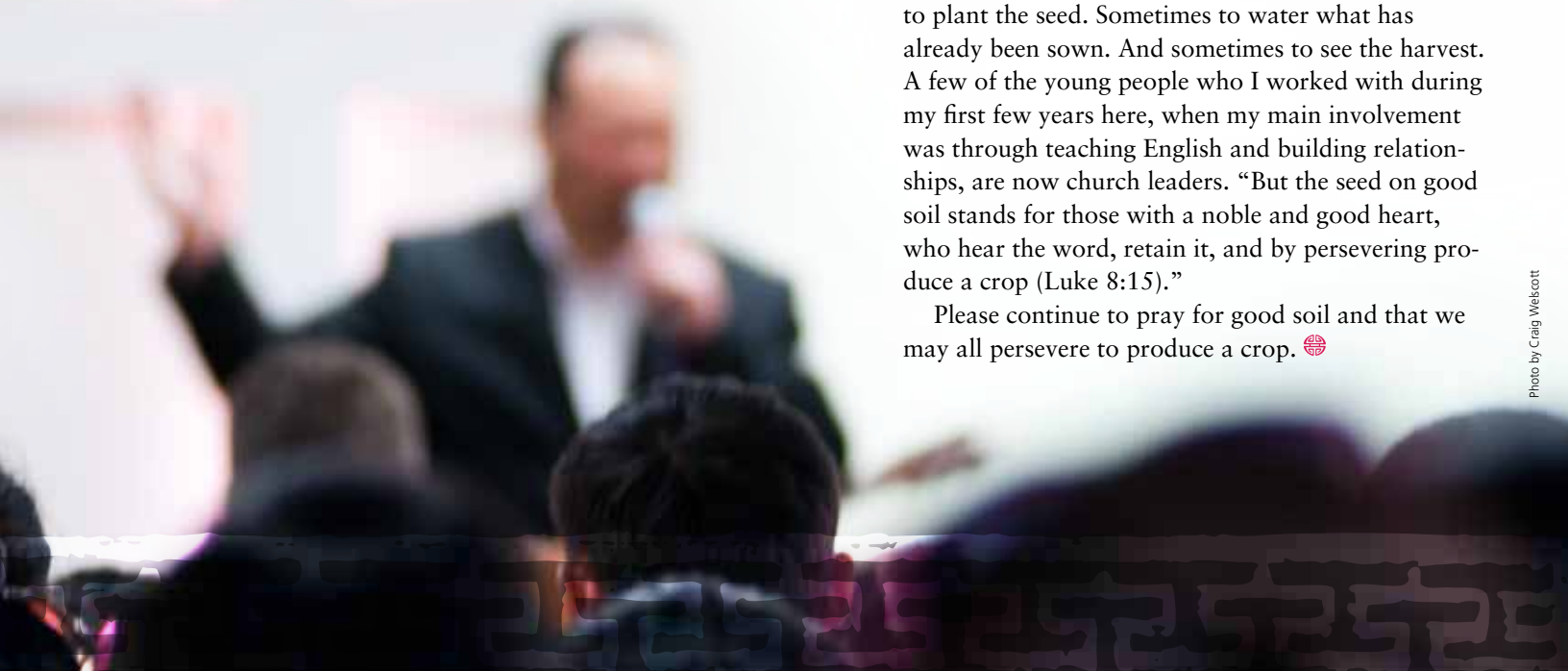


Photo by Craig Wescott

Photo by Isaac Fast

Thank you!

Because of your generosity, we are able to carry out our mission to be the gospel.

Giving

Mennonite Church USA congregations

Allegheny Conference		Gulf States Conference		Ohio Conference of MC USA	
$48,386	15 of 30 conference congregations gave an average of $3,226	$594	1 of 12 conference congregations gave an average of $594	$873,889*	56 of 77 conference congregations gave an average of $15,605
Atlantic Coast Conference*		**Illinois Conference**		**Pacific Northwest Conference**	
$221,153*	15 of 36 conference congregations gave an average of $14,744	$213,657*	22 of 49 conference congregations gave an average of $9,712	$85,314	20 of 37 conference congregations gave an average of $4,266
Central District Conference		**Indiana-Michigan Conference**		**Pacific Southwest Conference**	
$225,068*	31 of 45 conference congregations gave an average of $7,260	$517,952*	51 of 75 conference congregations gave an average of $10,156	$44,139	13 of 42 conference congregations gave an average of $3,395
Central Plains Conference		**Lancaster Conference**		**South Central Conference**	
$331,585	35 of 54 conference congregations gave an average of $9,474	$91,226	11 of 172 conference congregations gave an average of $8,293	$192,031	11 of 28 conference congregations gave an average of $17,457
Eastern District Conference		**Mountain States Conference**		**Southeast Conference**	
$89,362*	8 of 17 conference congregations gave an average of $11,170	$51,124	12 of 21 conference congregations gave an average of $4,260	$31,770	7 of 29 conference congregations gave an average of $4,539
Franconia Conference		**New York Conference**		**Virginia Conference**	
$219,927	26 of 42 conference congregations gave an average of $8,459	$17,016	6 of 15 conference congregations gave an average of $2,836	$211,911	25 of 71 conference congregations gave an average of $8,476
Franklin Conference		**North Central Conference**		**Western District Conference**	
$0	0 of 14 conference congregations gave	$8,163	4 of 11 conference congregations gave an average of $2,041	$306,244	41 of 67 conference congregations gave an average of $7,469

**Figure includes contributions from dual conference congregations.*

Above: Kristin Spalding, Youth Venture participant in Fort Myers, Fla., embraces Skyelind Morales.

Giving

Businesses / Foundations / Organizations / Estates

Businesses $305,171.51

Acu-Cut Hair Concepts	Ephrata, Pa.
Affinity4	Norfolk, Va.
Ag-Land FS Inc	Green Valley, Ill.
Custom Mobile Equipment Inc	Baldwin City, Kan.
Dutch Flats Farm	Wooster, Ohio
Elanco Chiropractic Inc	Ephrata, Pa.
Everence FCU	Lancaster, Pa.
Harper Industries Inc	Harper, Kan.
Harrison Hauling Inc	Goshen, Ind.
HRM Enterprises Inc	Hartville, Ohio
Indiana-Michigan Camp Assn	Sturgis, Mich.
Inter-Cambio Express Inc	Elkhart, Ind.
Jayco Inc	Middlebury, Ind.
Jiloa Enterprises	Berlin, Ohio
Keim Lumber Company	Millersburg, Ohio
Maplewood Farms, Ltd	Bay Port, Mich.
Miller Poultry	Orland, Ind.
Pettisville Grain Co	Pettisville, Ohio
Roth & Troyer Construction Inc	Milford, Neb.
Steffen Farms	Apple Creek, Ohio
Trace Worldwide Corporation	Palos Verdes Estates, Calif.
Wendy Jo's Homemade LLC	Lancaster, Pa.
Willowdale Apartments Ltd	Fredericton, Neb.

Foundations $135,385.00

EC Fund	Wauseon, Ohio
Hospira Employee Giving Campaign	Princeton, N.J.
Schowalter Foundation Inc	Newton, Kan.
United Service Foundation Inc	Shrewsbury, Pa.

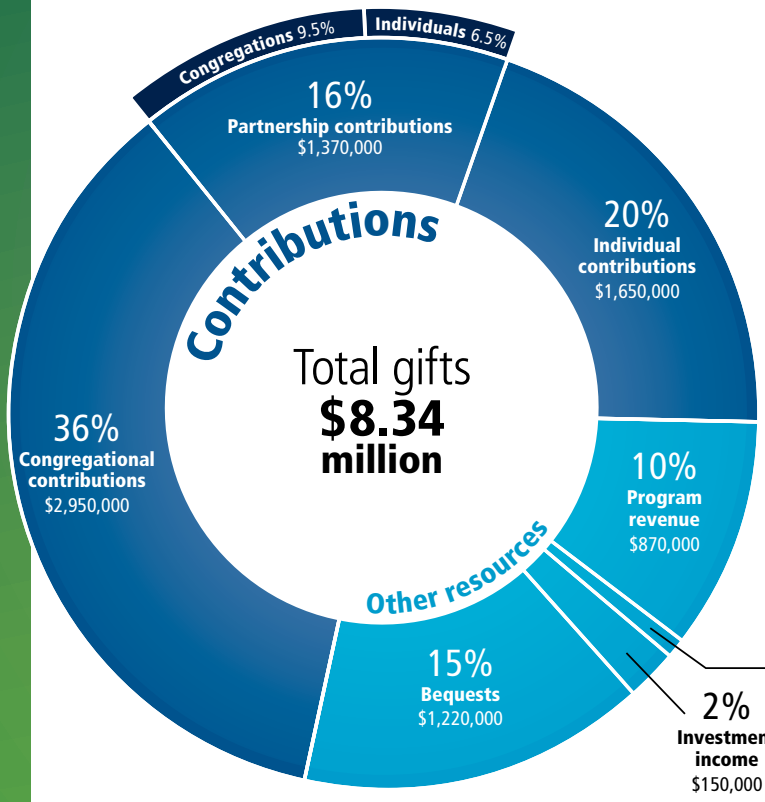
Other organizations $158,122.44

ACC/VEMZO Partnership Administration	Akron, Pa.
Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission	Goshen, Ind.
Bethany Mennonite Women	St. Catharines, Ont.
Bethel Mennonite Church	Hydro, Okla.
Boynton Mennonite Church	Hopedale, Ill.
Bread For The Journey Ministries	Hackensack, N.J.
Brethren in Christ World Missions	Mechanicsburg, Pa.
Butter Valley Community Church	Bally, Pa.
Calvary Evangelical Mennonite Church	Washington, Ill.
Canada Helps Organization	Toronto, Ont.
Carlisle Evangelical Free Church	Carlisle, Pa.
Central District Mennonite Women	Goshen, Ind.
Central Plains Mennonite Women	Kalona, Iowa
Christchurch Evangelical Covenant	Portland, Maine
Christliche Dienste	Bammental, Germany
Community Bible Church	Olathe, Kan.
Community House Church	Washington, D.C.
Community United Church of Christ	Morton, Ill.
Cornerstone Church	Garden City, Kan.
Covenant United Methodist Church	Bath, Pa.
Croghan Conservative Mennonite Church	Croghan, N.Y.
Ebenfeld MB Church	Hillsboro, Kan.
Eden Mennonite Church	Inola, Okla.
Fairview Mennonite Church	Fairview, Mich.
First Evangelical Free Church	Wichita, Kan.
First Presbyterian Church	Newton, Kan.
Garden Valley Church	Garden City, Kan.
Germantown Mennonite Church	Philadelphia, Pa.
Gibson City Bible Church	Gibson City, Ill.
Grace Community Church	Great Bend, Kan.
Grace Community Church	Dallas, Ore.
Grace Mennonite Church	Enid, Okla.
Hays Foursquare Church	Hays, Kan.
Indian Valley Faith Fellowship	Harleysville, Pa.
Ivanhoe Reformed Church of the Reformed Church of America	Riverdale, Ill.
Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13	Lancaster, Pa.
Landis Homes	Lititz, Pa.
Lifegate Fellowship	Elizabethtown, Pa.
Living Branches	Lansdale, Pa.
Maturing Pilgrims Group	Perkiomenville, Pa.
Mennonite Central Committee	Winnipeg, Man.
Mennonite Mission Network Auxiliary	Elkhart, Ind.
Mennonite Women USA	Newton, Kan.
Mission Fish	San Jose, Calif.
Mount Nebo United Methodist Church	Pequea, Pa.
N.C. Yearly Meeting of Friends	Greensboro, N.C.
North Oak Community Church	Hays, Kan.
Northwest Ohio Partners In Mission	Wauseon, Ohio
Obihiro Menn Church	Obihiro, Hokkaido, Japan
Ohio Mennonite Women	North Canton, Ohio
Petitcodiac Mennonite Church	Petitcodiac, Neb.
Pine Grove Church	Bowmansville, Pa.
Presbyterian Church of the Atonement	Silver Spring, Md.
Protection Mennonite Church	Protection, Kan.
Skyline Acres Baptist Church	Fredericton, Neb.
Tabor United Methodist Church	Woxall, Pa.
The First Mennonite Church	Vineland, Ont.
The Generosity Trust	Chattanooga, Tenn.
The River Church Community	San Jose, Calif.
United Methodist Church	Mount Pleasant, Iowa
Victory Chapel Cowboy Church	Mountain City, Tenn.
Virginia Mennonite Missions	Harrisonburg, Va.
Whitewater Mennonite Church	Boissevain, Man.
Winnetka Bible Church	Winnetka, Ill.
Wood Green Mennonite Church	London, U.K.

Estates $2,547,934.40

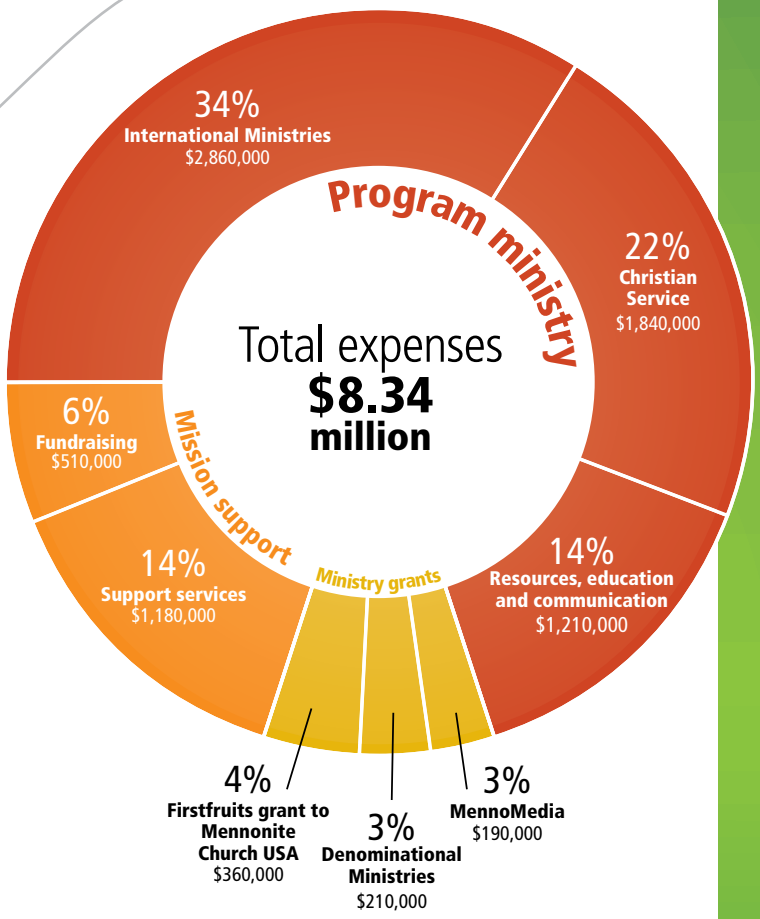
Alderfer, Mary E.	Souderton, Pa.
Banman, Elda S.	Newton, Kan.
Bartel, Lawrence A.	Souderton, Pa.
Becker, Marie	Hesston, Kan.
Bergey, Curtis	Goshen, Ind.
Blosser, Elsie	Goshen, Ind.
Bontrager, John I.	Goshen, Ind.
Brenneman Family, Jacob	Lenexa, Kan.
Brilhart, Earle R.	Goshen, Ind.
Byler, Verda E.	Goshen, Ind.
Cassel, Mahlon E.	Goshen, Ind.
Claassen, Aaron J.	Goshen, Ind.
Claassen, Virginia M.	Goshen, Ind.
Crossgrove, Cora	Goshen, Ind.
Deckert, Adam P.	Lenexa, Kan.
Derstine, Margaret G.	Lancaster, Pa.
Diener, Inez V.	Goshen, Ind.
Drawbond, Joseph	Goshen, Ind.
Fireoved, Katherine	Berne, Ind.
Frey, Raymond E. and LuEtta J.	Newton, Kan.
Freyenberger, Joseph D.	Wayland, Iowa
Friesen, Elmer	Portland, Ore.
Friesen, Wilbur	Freeman, S.D.
Gingerich, Jerry	Goshen, Ind.
Gingrich, Willard E.	Goshen, Ind.
Graber Memorial Fund, Abe	Middlebury, Ind.
Hallman, Abram P.	Goshen, Ind.
Halteman, Esther	Goshen, Ind.
Hartman, Esther K.	Goshen, Ind.
Headings, Dorothea G.	Bluffton, Ohio
Hershberger, Neva L.	Goshen, Ind.
Honderich, Glen	Goshen, Ind.
Huber, Kurt	Yankton, S.D.
Kempf, Wayne D.	Shickley, Neb.
Kropf, Ivan	Goshen, Ind.
Lapp, Erma	Goshen, Ind.
Lauver, William G.	Salunga, Pa.
Lefever, Grace B.	Goshen, Ind.
Liechty, Fredrick	Goshen, Ind.
Maust, Elmer	Bay Port, Mich.
Maust, Marie P.	Pigeon, Mich.
Metzler, Laura	Goshen, Ind.
Milne, Robert	Goshen, Ind.
Moyer, George S.	Goshen, Ind.
Moyer, Mildred	Souderton, Pa.
Nafziger, Blanche M.	Wauseon, Ohio
Neuenschwander, Paul A.	Goshen, Ind.
Nice Trust, Rachel D.	Morrison, Ill.
Penner, Elsie	Omaha, Neb.
Peters, Isaac G.	St. James, Minn.
Reeser, Clarence and Ruth	Goshen, Ind.
Rice, Mary	Goshen, Ind.
Sawatzky, Delphia	Billings, Mont.
Schertz, Dale E.	Remington, Ind.
Short, Doyle J.	Coralville, Iowa
Souder Foundation, Nelson	Goshen, Ind.
Sprunger, Helen	Berne, Ind.
Stoltzfus, Daniel	Goshen, Ind.
Strite, Ethel	Harrisonburg, Va.
Stuckey, Rutheda	Goshen, Ind.
Stucky, Regina	Marion, S.D.
Sweigart, Gladys A.	Goshen, Ind.
Troyer, Dana O.	Three Rivers, Mich.
Troyer, M. Arlene	Seward, Neb.
Von Gunten, Naomi V.	Goshen, Ind.
Wedel, Della	Nickerson, Kan.
Wyse, Lorraine	Goshen, Ind.
Wyse, Paul E.	Goshen, Ind.
Yoder, Ora	Goshen, Ind.
Zehr, Henry	Goshen, Ind.
Zehr, William M.	Hutchinson, Kan.

Ministry



Where the money comes from

Where the money goes



Additional notes

1. Mennonite Mission Network 2012–2013 fiscal year was Aug. 1, 2012, to July 31, 2013.
2. The total value of bequests received during the 2012–2013 fiscal year was $2,550,000. These funds are used over a four-year period.
3. Program revenue includes funding from partner organizations, program fees, event fees, sale of publications and resources, and worker earnings.
4. In addition to operating fund programs, $810,000 was dispersed to short-term projects funded by special contributions.
5. Cash held in reserve as of July 31, 2013, totaled $4,830,000.
6. Confidentiality policy: Giving information in the Mission Network/Mennonite Church USA database will not be shared. Address information may be shared with other Mennonite Church USA agencies.

Richard Muteba in the doorway of his church in Mbuji Mayi, Congo.

Delivering living water in Congo

One day, while walking by the *La Prison Centrale de Mbuji Mayi,* Jean-Richard Muteba Wa Mbuyi, a Mennonite pastor in Democratic Republic of Congo, heard strains of a song from inside the prison walls that gripped his attention. "We are dying of thirst. No water for days," wafted through the razor-wire overhead.

Muteba laid aside all other responsibilities, and entered the prison gates. He passed from eye-blinding sunlight into a dark foyer where he asked the warden to allow him into the cell area. Since prison officials know him well, Muteba was quickly granted access to the rooms where approximately 800 people are held waiting for their trial dates.

In Congo, people accused of a crime are guilty until proven innocent. It can be several years before a judge reviews their cases. During this time, prisoners struggle to survive in cramped conditions, often 100 human beings packed into small concrete-block rooms. Though prisoners' families are expected to provide food for them, the prison normally assures enough water to sustain life—except for the preceding week when the water shortage in the city was more severe than usual. This provocation inspired the prisoners' desperate song.

Muteba carried the news of the thirsty prisoners to the Sangilayi Evangelical Mennonite Church, where he is part of the pastoral team. The church leaders decided to disburse some of the funds that Henry De Leeuw, a surgeon and member of Yellow Creek Mennonite Church in Goshen, Ind., gives for prison ministry.

With some of these funds, Muteba paid for several loads of water to be sent to the prison because Mbuji Mayi, a city of 3 million inhabitants, has no piped water.

Videos explore legacy of Serbian war

For Serbian young adults, the conflict of the 1990s is a vague memory, but the effects of that war still linger all around them. Lane Stopher, a Mennonite Mission Network worker, and his co-workers at the War Trauma Center in Serbia wanted to explore the aftermath of war on society.

They enlisted the help of young adults by creating a video contest around the subject of "psychological effects of violence," and asked the youth to submit videos for a chance to both educate the public and win prize money. The

grand-prize-winning film, *Stolen Freedom*, featured the story of Serbian refugees as they fled the conflict that encroached on their homes in parts of Bosnia and Croatia. The refugees thought they reached safety, but they were immediately turned around and forced into the army. That story, along with the other videos, helped illustrate some of the trauma that war causes to individuals and culture.

"Most people don't really know much about the larger effects of war—the causes, the symptoms, and what they do to the larger society," Stopher says. "We wanted to do something educational but also creative."

Video online
See the film, *Trauma*, one of the Serbian film contest entries. **www.MennoniteMission.net/BeyondOurselves**

Photo by Kenneth Krehbiel/ImageWorks Photography

Convention volunteers serve Phoenix servants

Youth volunteers fill boxes of food at St. Mary's Food Bank in Phoenix as part of their Servant Project during the Mennonite Church USA Convention.

There were few idle hands at the Mennonite Church USA Convention in Phoenix as Servant Projects brought out 2,100 volunteers.

Some volunteers washed cars and wheelchairs at a retirement home, and others helped to organize inventory at food banks and thrift stores. They served at 43 organizations, donating about 42,000 hours over the course of the week.

"This was a great way to work alongside people, both the employees and those being served, from the different nonprofits," said Arloa Bontrager, director of SOOP and Youth Venture at Mennonite Mission Network, who coordinates the Servant Projects. "We get to learn from them and show them we care."

Youth Venture sees peace in Colombia

When a six-person Youth Venture team visited Colombia, July 10-31, they saw the fruits of peace in action. A 10-hour mule ride carried the Youth Venture team to the top of a mountain that was once a paramilitary control center. For almost 50 years, Colombia has been gripped by civil war. Hundreds of thousands have died and more than 4 million have been displaced from their homes. In the northern part of Colombia, the Youth Venture team didn't experience any violence. After years of peace talks, the mountain-top land controlled by the paramilitary group, was returned to the original owner. Where violence and cocaine plants once grew, there is now a farm. During the three weeks in Colombia, the team visited a coffee processing plant, tutored English, made new Colombian friends at a church young adult retreat, and "witnessed firsthand how God is at work in the world," said Graham Unruh, who co-led the team with his wife, Rachel.

Left to right: Anya Slabaugh, Fiorella Villanueva, Christina Hofer, Christhian Better, Leah Unruh, Dennis Herrera, Haley O'Neil.

New workers enter service

Mission workers beginning assignments from May to September 2013

International ministries

Bill and Carol Frisbie began a one-year special assignment to Senegal, Ghana, and Côte d'Ivoire, where they are providing leadership training with partner organizations. They are members of Living Faith Fellowship in Elkhart, Ind.

Alisha and Joshua Garber serve as resident directors at LCC International University in Lithuania. Their assignment as Mission Associates is for one year. They are members of Trinity Mennonite Church in Glendale, Ariz.

Naomi and Paul Kniss completed a two-week special assignment in India, where they fostered and supported relationships with partner churches and leaders of Bihar Mennonite Mandli. They are members of Ridgeway Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg, Va.

Brian and Kelly McPhail started a three-year assignment as International Service Workers in China. They are teaching English in Chinese universities and serve as program coordinators for Fuller Theological Seminary. They are members of Epicentre Church in Pasadena, Calif.

Wilbert Shenk completed a two-week special assignment in India. He participated in a consultation in Bangalore and taught at Union Biblical Seminary in Pune. He is a member of Belmont Mennonite Church in Elkhart, Ind.

Rod Stafford completed a three-week special assignment in Israel with Nazareth Village. He is a member and pastor of Portland (Ore.) Mennonite Church.

Corin Wenger started a one-year internship in Argentina through the partnership of North Central Conference, Mission Network, and PROMINOA *(Programa Misionero al Norte Argentino)*. He will support the youth in local congregations, and participate in a mission training program. He attends Evangelical Covenant Church in International Falls, Minn.

Caleb Yoder started a two-year assignment as an International Service Worker in Ecuador, where he will work in leadership development and pastoral accompaniment. Along with Mission Network, this partnership includes Colombia Mennonite Church and Central Plains Mennonite Conference. He is a member of West Union Mennonite Church in Parnell, Iowa.

MVS

Alamosa, Colo.

Heather Driedger, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Wildwood Mennonite Church (Saskatoon), serving with Center for Restorative Programs

Emma Regier, Newton, Kan., Shalom Mennonite Church (Newton), serving with Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project

Laurel Woodward, North Newton, Kan., Shalom Mennonite Church (Newton, Kan.) and Assembly Mennonite Church (Goshen, Ind.), serving with Center for Restorative Programs

Boulder, Colo.

Erica Buller, Lenexa, Kan., Rainbow Mennonite Church (Kansas City, Kan.), serving with Out & About

Adriana Martinez, Berwyn, Ill., Lombard (Ill.) Mennonite Church, serving with Out & About

John Reesor, Stouffville, Ontario, Community Mennonite Church of Stouffville and RISE United Methodist Faith Community (Harrisonburg, Va.), serving with Boulder Shelter for the Homeless

Chicago

Anna Hershey, Harleysville, Pa., Salford Mennonite Church (Harleysville), serving with Erie Neighborhood House

Rebecca Longhurst, Winnipeg, Manitoba, River East Mennonite Brethren Church (Winnipeg), serving with Erie Neighborhood House

Lauren Stoltzfus, Lancaster, Pa., Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster, serving with South Chicago Chamber of Commerce

Nathan Vader, Mechanicsburg, Pa., Assembly Mennonite Church (Goshen, Ind.), serving with Chicago Community Mennonite Church

Elkhart, Ind.

Matthew Cordella, Manorville, N.Y., St. John the Evangelist (Center Moriches, N.Y.) and St. Luke the Evangelist (Geneseo, N.Y.), serving with Center for Community Justice

Seth Martin, Columbus, Ohio, Toledo (Ohio) Mennonite Church and Rainbow Mennonite Church (Kansas City, Kan.), serving with Church Community Services

Kansas City, Kan.

Angela Bishop, Souderton, Pa., Souderton Mennonite Church, serving with Migrant Farmworkers Project

Sophia Lapp, Goshen, Ind., College Mennonite Church (Goshen), serving with Rosedale Development Association

Fabian Petersen, Kaltenkirchen, Germany, Protestant Church of Kaltenkirchen, serving with Urban Scholastic Center

Benjamin Preheim, Lawrence, Kan., Peace Mennonite Church (Lawrence) and Bethel College Mennonite Church (North Newton, Kan.), serving with Connecting for Good

Madison, Wis.

Brian O'Leary, Seattle, Seattle Mennonite Church, serving with Community Action Coalition

Jamison Unruh, Hesston, Kan., Whitestone Mennonite Church (Hesston), serving with Habitat for Humanity of Dane County ReStore

New York

Alora Canty, Manheim, Pa., Landisville (Pa.) Mennonite Church, serving with World Vision

Kyle Howard, Halstead, Kan., Hope Mennonite Church (Wichita, Kan.), serving with Urban Justice Center

Rochester, N.Y.

Rebekah Enns, Winnipeg, Manitoba, River East Mennonite Brethren Church (Winnipeg), serving with Judicial Process Commission

Keturah Miller, Louisville, Ohio, First Mennonite Church of Canton (Canton, Ohio), serving with Monroe County Public Defender's Office

San Antonio

Sarah Amthor, Hoover, Ala., serving with Inner City Development

Marie Bergen, Winnipeg, Manitoba, First Mennonite

Photo by David Fast.

Brian and Kelly McPhail serve in China.

Find Mennonite Mission Network on Facebook.

Church (Winnipeg) and Holyrood Mennonite Church (Edmonton, Alberta), serving with Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of San Antonio, Inc.

Katie Miller, Seattle, Seattle Mennonite Church, serving with Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of San Antonio, Inc.

San Francisco

Sara Brubacher, Lincoln, Neb., First Mennonite Church (Lincoln) and Conrad Grebel College Chapel (Waterloo, Ontario), serving with Mission Graduates

Amanda Smith, Washington, Iowa, serving with The Gubbio Project

Rachel Stoltzfus, Elkhart, Ind., Prairie Street Mennonite Church (Elkhart), serving with Homeless Prenatal Program

Seattle

Annika Janzen, Fresno, Calif., Mennonite Community Church (Fresno), serving with University District Food Bank

April Kabagambe, Newton, Kan., First Mennonite Church (Newton), serving with Ozanam House

Grant Miller, Danvers, Ill., Hopedale (Ill.) Mennonite Church and Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship (Goshen, Ind.), serving with Legal Action Center

Hannah Schumacher, Bluffton, Ohio, First Mennonite Church (Bluffton), serving with Washington Trails Association

Brian Troyer, Marysville, Ohio, Cypress Wesleyan Church (Galloway, Ohio), serving with Grist

Sioux Falls, S.D.

Katherine Widmer, Mount Pleasant, Iowa, College Mennonite Church (Goshen, Ind.), serving with Lutheran Social Services, Refugee & Immigration Programs

St. Louis

Nicholas Handrich, Goshen, Ind., Silverwood Mennonite Church (Goshen), serving with Habitat for Humanity St. Louis

Justus Kerber, Sinsheim, Germany, Sinsheim Mennonite Church, serving with Bicycle Works

Allison Trent, Orrville, Ohio, Smithville (Ohio) Mennonite Church and Walnut Creek (Ohio) Mennonite Church, serving with South Side Day Nursery

Tucson, Ariz.

Anna Johnson, Forest Grove, Ore., Solid Rock Church (Portland, Ore.), serving with Tucson Community Food Bank

David Joshua Sanabria, Bogota, Colombia, Mennonite Church of Teusaquillo (Bogota), serving with Primavera Foundation

Washington, D.C.

Mariah Hostetler, Dodge City, Kan., First Presbyterian Church (Dodge City), serving with Briya

Grace Parker, Wichita, Kan., Prairie Street Mennonite Church (Elkhart, Ind.), serving with Briya

Miriam Weaverdyck, Ann Arbor, Mich., Shalom Community Church (Ann Arbor), serving with Catholic Charities DC

Service Adventure

Albany, Ore.

Ben and Jill Baker, Albany, Ore., and Callaway, Minn., Albany Mennonite Church and Strawberry Lake Mennonite Church (Ogema, Minn.), Service Adventure leaders

Ashley Brugh, Elkhart, Ind., Sugar Grove Church (Goshen, Ind.), serving with Helping Hands Homeless Shelter and Thrift Store, and Mennonite Village

Nathanael Dick, North Newton, Kan., Bethel College Mennonite Church (North Newton), serving with Community Before/After School Program, and ReStore (Habitat for Humanity)

Belinda Mueller, Niederhorbach, Germany, Deutschhof Mennonite Church, serving with Mennonite Village

Albuquerque, N.M.

Sharayah Williams, Kalona, Iowa, Kalona Mennonite Church, Service Adventure leader

Sandie Becker, Heilbronn, Germany, Brethren Congregation (Heilbronn), serving with First Nations Healthsource and East Central Ministries

Adrienne Derstine, Harleysville, Pa., Franconia Mennonite Church (Telford, Pa.), serving with Harwood Art Center

Brian Krehbiel, Donnellson, Iowa, Zion Mennonite Church (Donnellson), serving with Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity ReStore

Anchorage, Alaska

Renee Neufeld, Hurley, S.D., Salem Mennonite Church (Freeman, S.D.), Service Adventure leader

Marlene Allebach, Harleysville, Pa., Towamencin Mennonite Church (Kulpsville, Pa.), serving with The Downtown Soup Kitchen

Photo provided by Rob Wolf.

Service Adventure unit in Johnstown, Pa. Back row: Annika Wiebe, Theresa and Rob Wolf (leaders). Front row: Laura Reindel, Gabrielle DeVito.

Mark Kreider, North Newton, Kan., Bethel College Mennonite Church (North Newton), serving with Bureau of Land Management

Tyler Smith, Goshen, Ind., Yellow Creek Mennonite Church (Goshen), serving with Habitat for Humanity

Leah Swartley, Elkhart, Ind., Sunnyside Mennonite Church (Elkhart), serving with AWAIC, and Children's Lunch Box

Colorado Springs, Colo.

Michelle Musselman, Colorado Springs, Colo., Beth-El Mennonite Church (Colorado Springs), Service Adventure leader

David Bergen, Bielefeld, Germany, Bielefeld Mennonite Church, serving with Our House, Inc.

Rachel Knight, Moundridge, Kan., Eden Mennonite Church (Moundridge), serving with Our House, Inc.

Abigail Musser, Newport News, Va., Huntington Mennonite Church (Newport News), serving with Springs Rescue Mission

Scott Thompson, Wichita, Kan., Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church (Wichita), serving with Interfaith Hospitality Network

Johnstown, Pa.

Robert and Theresa Wolf, Decatur, Ga., Port Orange (Fla.) Presbyterian Church and Inman Park United Methodist Church (Atlanta), Service Adventure leaders

Gabrielle DeVito, Goshen, Ind., Waterford Mennonite Church (Goshen), serving with Head Start of Cambria County, and New Day, Inc.

Laura Reindel, Wilnsdorf, Germany, Evangelische Kirchengemeinde Niederdressindorf (Burbach, Germany), serving with ACRP (Alternative Community Resource Program)

Annika Wiebe, Rehburg, Germany, Mennonite Church of Hannover (Hohnhorst, Germany), serving with Head Start of Cambria County, and New Day, Inc.

Raleigh, N.C.

Jeron and Leah Baker, Hesston, Kan., Hesston Mennonite Church, Service Adventure leaders

Molly Bruner, Wauseon, Ohio, Central Mennonite Church (Archbold, Ohio), serving with Ten Thousand Villages, and Growing Together Preschool

James Lang, Portland, Ore., Portland Mennonite Church, serving with Habitat for Humanity Restore

Daniel Thimm, Enkenbach, Germany, Enkenbach Mennonite Church, serving with Arts Together Preschool, and Loaves and Fishes (an after-school program)

SOOP

Adam and Jennifer Cobb and children, Archbold, Ohio, Lockport Mennonite Church (Stryker, Ohio), served one week in Lincoln City, Ore.

Michael and Tonya Dean and children, Fisher, Ill., East Bend Mennonite Church (Fisher), served two weeks in Glendale, Ariz.

Mark and Tammy Deitrick, Jersey Shore, Pa., Mountain View Fellowship (Trout Run, Pa.), served three months in Ephrata, Pa.

Ann and Sherman Eberly, Harrisonburg, Va., Harrisonburg Mennonite Church, served two months

(Continued on next page)

in Petitcodiac, New Brunswick.

Lois and Lowell Gerber, Lititz, Pa., Lititz Mennonite Church, served two weeks in Abbotsford, British Columbia.

Cynthia Hoff, Emmaus, Pa., First Mennonite Church (Wadsworth, Ohio), served three months in Macon, Miss.

Jim Juhnke and Miriam Nofsinger, Wichita, Kan., Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church (Wichita), served two months in Shipshewana, Ind.

Susan and Tom Russack and children, New York City, Redeemer Presbyterian Church (New York City), served two weeks in Toano, Va.

Opal and Roger Waugh, Gilbert, Ariz., Gold Canyon (Ariz.) United Methodist Church, served one month in Reedley, Calif.

Garrett and Maranda Whorton, Colby, Kan., Congregational Church (Little River, Kan.), served one month in Lincoln City, Ore.

Youth Venture

Colombia

Graham and Rachel Unruh, Newton, Kan., First Mennonite Church (Newton), Youth Venture leaders

Christina Hofer, Dolton, S.D., Salem-Zion Mennonite Church (Freeman, S.D.)

Haley O'Neil, Salem, Ore., Salem Alliance Church

Anya Slabaugh, Kalona, Iowa, East Union Mennonite Church (Kalona)

Leah Unruh, Walton, Kan., Tabor Mennonite Church (Newton, Kan.)

Ecuador

Paul Regier, Newton, Kan., Shalom Mennonite Church (Newton), Youth Venture leader

Jill Schlabach, West Liberty, Ohio, Oak Grove Mennonite Church (West Liberty), Youth Venture leader

Jacob Hill, Newton, Iowa, Christ Community Church (Des Moines, Iowa)

Ben Peterson, Des Moines, Iowa, Christ Community Church (Des Moines)

Jacob Thompson, Urbandale, Iowa, Christ Community Church (Des Moines, Iowa)

Jacqueline Thompson, Urbandale, Iowa, Christ Community Church (Des Moines, Iowa)

John Timmons, Urbandale, Iowa, Christ Community Church (Des Moines, Iowa)

South Africa

Ben and Sarah Roth Shank, Harrisonburg, Va., Community Mennonite Church (Harrisonburg), Youth Venture leaders

Alisha Brubaker, Harrisonburg, Va., Zion Hill Mennonite Church (Singers Glen, Va.)

Eric Dawson, Grand Haven, Mich., Resting Place (Norton Shores, Mich.)

Katherine Mumaw, Linville, Va., Weavers Mennonite Church (Harrisonburg, Va.)

Rachel Springer, Minier, Ill., Hopedale (Ill.) Mennonite Church

Ft. Myers, Fla.

Rose Jantzi, Harrisonburg, Va., Harrisonburg Mennonite Church, Youth Venture leader

Kassidy Love, Goshen, Ind., Life Spring Community Church (Goshen), Youth Venture leader

Photo by Del Hershberger

Radical Journey participants
Back row: Austin Regier, Brianna Derstine, Ben Wiebe, Corin Wenger (intern to Argentina).
Front row: Emily Epp, Brittni Leatherman-Gascho, Hannah Yoder, Lydia Stoll.

Ashlynn Good, Hesston, Kan., Hoffnungsau Mennonite Church (Inman, Kan.)

Josh Harms, Corry, Pa., Beaverdam Mennonite Church (Corry)

Kristin Spalding, Lancaster, Pa.

DOOR Discover

Mennonite Church USA groups that served with Discover

Denver

First Mennonite Church (Newton, Kan.)

Greeley Mennonite Church (Greeley, Colo.)

Hollywood

Calvary Mennonite Church (Aurora, Ore.)

San Antonio

Bluffton University (Bluffton, Ohio)

West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship (Philadelphia, Pa.)

DOOR Discern

Atlanta

Dax Lewis, College Park, Ga., Live Oak Baptist Church (College Park)

Antonia Lucero, Denver, His Love Fellowship (Denver)

Kenya Phillips, Stone Mountain, Ga., Israel Missionary Baptist Church (Stone Mountain)

Jordan Pounds, Locust Grove, Ga., Higher Living (Locust Grove)

Kenneth Rogers, Decatur, Ga.

Mykeisha Walker, Jonesboro, Ga., Morning Star Baptist Church (Burlington, N.C.)

Chicago

Erika Alvarez, Chicago

Chris Crater, Chicago, First Church of the Brethren (Chicago)

Tyler Gehring, Pretty Prairie, Kan., First Mennonite Church (Hutchinson, Kan.)

Lakewell Gordon, Denver, His Love Fellowship (Denver)

JD Hershberger, Hesston, Kan., Hesston Mennonite Church

Chris Nellet, Tucson, Ariz., Catalina United Methodist Church (Tucson)

Hannah Sauder, Lititz, Pa., Neffsville Mennonite Church (Lancaster, Pa.)

Denver

Manuel Alvarez, Bell Flower, Calif., His Love Fellowship (Denver)

Kyle Balzer, Denver, His Love Fellowship (Denver)

Samuel Foxvog, Tiskilwa, Ill., Plow Creek Mennonite Church (Tiskilwa)

Shemeza Habonimana, Aurora, Colo., Meadowood Church (Aurora)

Alexus Holliday, Denver, The Potter's House (Denver)

Matt Kilian, Clive, Iowa, Heartland Presbyterian Church (Clive)

Elizabeth Martinez, Denver

Danae Miller, Middlebury, Ind., Yellow Creek Mennonite Church (Goshen, Ind.)

Nicole Smith, Elkhart, Ind., Prairie Street Mennonite Church (Elkhart)

Patricia Vazquez, Fresno, Calif., United Faith Christian Fellowship (Fresno)

Hollywood

Christian Montero, Los Angeles, *Alcance Victoria Este de Los Angeles*

Arthur Penate, Los Angeles, St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic (Los Angeles)

Odalys Romero, Los Angeles, Christ the King Catholic (Los Angeles)

Wendy Salazar, Los Angeles, World Outreach House of Prayer (Los Angeles)

Kevyn Silva, Los Angeles

Kyle Wahe, Palmdale, Calif., First Presbyterian Church (Hollywood)

Miami

Carolyn Friedhoff, Pinecrest, Fla., Riviera Presbyterian Church (Miami)

San Antonio

Joel Castanon, San Antonio

Robert Gallegos, San Antonio

Katie Miller, San Antonio

Abigail Nickle, San Antonio, University

Presbyterian Church (San Antonio)

DOOR Dwell

Atlanta

Sophie Beal, Shaker Heights, Ohio, Forest Hill Church (Shaker Heights), serving with Gateway

Justin Chambers, Grand Rapids, Mich., Mt. Zion Baptist Church (Kalamazoo, Mich.), serving with Mercy Church

Daniel Edmonds, Lebanon, Ohio, Trinity Presbyterian Church (Columbia, Mo.), serving with House Proud

Rachel Huggins, Alexandria, Va., Bush Hill Presbyterian Church (Alexandria), serving with Central Outreach Advocacy Center

Ian Nance, Monroe, La., serving with Atlanta Furniture Bank

Jackson Schonewolf, Granite Falls, N.C., St. Luke's United Methodist Church (Hickory, N.C.), serving with Wilderness Works

Chicago

Megan Schreurs, Hugo, Okla., serving with Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly

Clarissa Sents, McPherson, Kan., First Presbyterian Church (McPherson), serving with Graceseeds, and Build

Billy Sheppard, Alpharetta, Ga., Roswell (Ga.) Presbyterian Church, serving with Build

Denver

Sean Lent, Carmel, N.Y., serving with African Community Center

Kelsey Pennington, Houston, serving with Denver Urban Ministries

Alison Reist, North Liberty, Ind., Kern Road Mennonite Church (South Bend, Ind.), serving with Gathering Place

April Sugimoto, Caledonia Mich., serving with African Community Center

Hollywood

Freddie Bell, Concord, N.C., serving with My Friend's Place

Tara Corbett, Pinehurst, N.C., Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church (Southern Pines, N.C.), serving with PATH (People Assisting the Homeless)

Brent Davis, Finleyville, Pa., serving with The Center at Blessed Sacrament

Chantel Hoover, Rawson, Ohio, Gateway Evangelical Presbyterian Church (Findlay, Ohio), serving with My Friend's Place

John Kupar, Lexington, Ky., serving with Lord's Lighthouse Ministry at First Presbyterian Church Hollywood

Laura Robinett, Jefferson City, Mo., First Presbyterian Church (Jefferson City), serving with PATH (People Assisting the Homeless)

Miami

Suyeon Kim, Matthews, N.C., Korean First Presbyterian Church (Charlotte, N.C.), serving with South Florida Interfaith Worker Justice

Michelle Muniz-Vega, San Juan, Puerto Rico, serving with Miami Rescue Mission

Kelly Nevling, North Brook, Ill., serving with Riviera Presbyterian Church

Lanier Smith, Camden, S.C., serving with Yvonne Learning Center

Molly Turner, Colorado Springs, Colo., Timberline Church (Fort Collins, Colo.), serving with United Way - Branches

San Antonio

Meredith Cox, Roswell, Ga., Roswell Presbyterian Church, serving with Divine Redeemer

Julius Lorenzi, San Antonio

James Martin, Wenatchee, Wash., Pullman (Wash.) Presbyterian Church, serving with Health Science Center

Ashley Morales, San Antonio

Maggie Wood, Elizabeth City, N.C., Cann Memorial Presbyterian Church (Elizabeth City), serving with Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES)

Radical Journey

Paraguay

Brittni Leatherman-Gascho, Goshen, Ind., College Mennonite Church (Goshen)

Austin Regier, Newton, Kan., First Mennonite Church (Newton)

Benjamin Wiebe, Goshen, Ind., Eighth Street Mennonite Church (Goshen)

Hannah Yoder, Akron, Pa., Akron Mennonite Church

South Africa

Brianna Derstine, Harleysville, Pa., Frederick (Pa.) Mennonite Church and Franconia Mennonite Church (Telford, Pa.)

Emily Epp, North Newton, Kan., First Mennonite Church (Newton, Kan.)

Lydia Stoll, Harrisonburg, Va., Community Mennonite Church (Harrisonburg)

Partnership in mission

By Ervin Stutzman

I was delighted to see the *Missio Dei* booklet, *Walking Together in Mission*, highlight the partnerships between Mennonite Mission Network and the congregations or area conferences of Mennonite Church USA. Several years ago, a survey showed that Mission Network was actively assisting 310 congregations in 19 conferences to make connections in mission. In addition, congregations and conferences forge their own partnerships. I will offer a few examples of both kinds of connections from the hundreds that could be mentioned:

The *Arca de Salvacion* congregation in Ft. Myers, Fla., has had strong ties with several Guatemalan congregations, which began through their mission outreach to farm workers.

Calvary Community Church in Hampton, Va., has a sister relationship with a Mennonite congregation in Ghana.

Harrisonburg (Va.) Mennonite Church has a sister relationship with a Mennonite congregation in Guyana, South America.

North Baltimore (Md.) Mennonite Church relates to a congregation in Democratic Republic of Congo. They also relate to congregations in Japan where James and Faith Wenger served under Mission Network.

Atlantic Coast Conference has been a partner for some years with a group of Mennonite churches in Puerto Rico. As a result, this conference of Puerto Rican churches has become an associate member of Mennonite Church USA.

The Central Plains Conference partners with Mission Network and the Mennonite Church of Colombia (IMCOL) to place workers in Ecuador. The workers are Colombian. Support for the workers is part of the conference budget, and they have representatives who meet with Mission Network and IMCOL to make decisions about the work in Ecuador.

Beyond these congregational or area conference connections, Mennonite Church USA is pursuing covenant relationships with Mennonite churches in Congo. We hope to connect with representatives of these churches at the Mennonite World Conference meeting in Harrisburg, Pa., in August 2015. This gathering will be an ideal time to both celebrate our current partnerships with congregations around the world and to forge new ones. It also provides an ideal opportunity for the staff of the Executive Board of Mennonite Church USA and the staff of Mennonite Mission Network to partner as never before to welcome our brothers and sisters from around the globe.

Let it be so.

Ervin Stutzman is executive director of Mennonite Church USA.

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